

from *Travels With Charley* by John Steinbeck
Selection Test A

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. Why does Steinbeck make the trip he reports on in *Travels With Charley*?
- A. He wants to visit relatives in the West.
 - B. He wants to try out his custom camping truck.
 - C. He wants to learn about America's landscapes and people firsthand.
 - D. He is tired of living in one place and thinks it is time that he explored more.
- ___ 2. How do Steinbeck's friends respond to the news of the trip he is planning?
- A. They wish him well.
 - B. They warn about unpleasantness.
 - C. They supply him with equipment.
 - D. They ask him if they can go along.
- ___ 3. Whom or what does Steinbeck take along on the trip that leads to *Travels With Charley*?
- A. his poodle
 - B. his brother
 - C. his son
 - D. his father
- ___ 4. Which three statements are true about Charley in *Travels With Charley* by Steinbeck?
- I. He is a good companion.
 - II. He is a skillful fighter.
 - III. He is protective.
 - IV. He makes it easy for Steinbeck to meet strangers.
- A. I, II, and IV
 - B. I, II, and III
 - C. II, III, and IV
 - D. I, III, and IV
- ___ 5. Which word best describes Steinbeck's style in the following sentence?
- And the night, far from being frightful, was lovely beyond thought, for the stars were close, and although there was no moon the starlight made a silver glow in the sky.
- A. choppy
 - B. descriptive
 - C. unemotional
 - D. humorous

- ___ 6. In the Bad Lands, Steinbeck stops to ask about eggs. What is his real reason for stopping?
- A. He has not eaten all day.
 - B. He thinks the man looks lonely.
 - C. He wants to meet someone from there.
 - D. Charley needs a break from driving.
- ___ 7. What does Steinbeck mean when he says to Charley, "I have a strong impulse to stay, amounting to a celestial command."
- A. He wants to stay in one place so that he can see shooting stars.
 - B. He wants Charley to understand that Steinbeck, not Charley, is in charge of the trip.
 - C. He has such a strong feeling about danger ahead that it feels like a message from heaven.
 - D. He can tell by reading the stars that it is important that they stay where they are.
- ___ 8. How does Steinbeck learn about people on his journey?
- A. He has casual conversations with people he meets at each stop.
 - B. He interviews people and takes notes.
 - C. He observes people from a distance, so they will not recognize him.
 - D. He pays attention to Charley's reactions to the people they met.
- ___ 9. Steinbeck names his truck after a horse in a novel, and he records conversations with Charley. What do these acts tell you about Steinbeck's attitude toward his subject?
- A. He is impatient to get home.
 - B. He misses his country home and horses.
 - C. He can look at things humorously.
 - D. He likes company.
- ___ 10. What is Steinbeck's purpose in describing the chatty woman in the Bad Lands?
- A. to make fun of her
 - B. to explain that she moved there recently
 - C. to show how talkative everyone is
 - D. to show how landscape affects people

- ___ 11. Why does Steinbeck end the excerpt from *Travels With Charley* by saying that each generalization he made about his trip “was canceled by another”?
- A. He is thinking about giving up writing.
 - B. He wants readers to feel sorry for him.
 - C. He wants sympathy from Charley.
 - D. He is gently criticizing himself.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 12. Which word means the opposite of *impaired*?
- A. weakened
 - B. strengthened
 - C. lessened
 - D. damaged
- ___ 13. What does *inexplicable* mean?
- A. hard to explain
 - B. obvious
 - C. simple
 - D. unavoidable
- ___ 14. In which sentence is a reflexive pronoun used *incorrectly*?
- A. Hank gave himself five minutes to finish.
 - B. We bought ourselves some pencils.
 - C. Bea wrote a story about herself.
 - D. I missed yourself when you were gone.

Essay

15. Steinbeck writes, “In the night the Bad Lands had become Good Lands.” In an essay, describe Steinbeck’s first reaction to the Bad Lands. Then, go on to explain the experience that causes his feelings to change. Support your ideas with details from the selection.
16. Based on the information provided in the selection, what would you expect to find in the Bad Lands? How would you feel traveling through the area? Write a brief essay in which you explain reasons that you would or would not enjoy visiting the Bad Lands.